

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 15, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 32

Introduced by Assembly Member Monning

(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Brownley and Evans~~, *Evans, Adams, Ammiano, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfield, Bradford, Buchanan, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De Leon, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Galgiani, Hall, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huffman, Jones, Lieu, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Nava, John A. Perez, Portantino, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, and Yamada*)

February 16, 2010

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 32—Relative to gender discrimination.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 32, as amended, Monning. Gender discrimination.

This measure would memorialize the United States Senate to ratify, and the President to sign, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and would memorialize the Congress of the United States and the President to enact appropriate legislation that addresses the concerns expressed in this measure.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On December 18, 1979, the Convention on the
2 Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was
3 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and after the
4 20th nation ratified the convention on September 3, 1981, it became
5 an international treaty; and

6 WHEREAS, The treaty brings the female half of humanity into
7 the focus of human rights concerns and establishes not only an
8 international bill of rights for women, but also an agenda for action
9 by countries to guarantee those rights; and

10 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to creating
11 conditions within which women can exercise and enjoy basic rights
12 and freedoms; and

13 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to affirmative
14 action for women until parity with men is reached; and

15 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to abolishing
16 all forms of slavery and prostitution of women; and

17 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to securing
18 women's right to vote, to stand for election, and to hold public
19 office; and

20 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to providing
21 equal opportunity for women to represent their countries
22 internationally; and

23 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to allowing
24 women the right to change or retain their nationality and that of
25 their children, regardless of marital status; and

26 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
27 girls' and women's equal access to quality education in all subjects
28 and at all levels, including continuing and vocational programs
29 for women; and

30 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
31 equal employment, vocational, and promotion opportunities, job
32 security, and equal pay for work of equal value; and

33 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
34 that women who are married, pregnant, or have children have the
35 right to work and the right to maternity leave and other appropriate
36 benefits; and

37 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
38 that child care is available, and that pregnant women are protected
39 from work that may be hazardous to their health or the health of
40 their future children; and

1 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to providing
2 adequate health services to women, including family planning
3 where necessary, and prenatal care, including nutrition for pregnant
4 and lactating mothers; and

5 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
6 access to financial credit for women; and

7 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
8 the right of women to participate in recreational, cultural, and
9 athletic activities; and

10 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to giving
11 special attention to all the provisions of the treaty to women who
12 reside in rural areas; and

13 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to ensuring
14 women equal rights in choosing a spouse, name, or occupation; to
15 marry and divorce; to own, buy, sell, and administer property; to
16 share parenting roles, regardless of marital status; and to choose
17 the number and spacing of their children, including adoption or
18 guardianship; and

19 WHEREAS, Ratifying governments are committed to
20 establishing a minimum age for marriage and to ensuring that all
21 marriages are entered into freely, by mutual consent; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1979, after the United Nations General Assembly
23 adopted the treaty, President Carter sent it to the Senate Foreign
24 Relations Committee for ratification, where it was subsequently
25 approved by the committee with bipartisan support but never
26 scheduled for a vote on the Senate floor because such treaties
27 require a two-thirds vote of support; and

28 WHEREAS, Over six million women are beaten by their
29 husbands or boyfriends each year in the United States, and 1,500
30 of them die from their injuries; and

31 WHEREAS, One hundred eighty-five countries have ratified
32 the treaty; and

33 WHEREAS, The United States of America is considered by
34 many nations to be the leader of the democratic societies of the
35 world and the leading proponent of human rights, yet the United
36 States of America is the only industrialized nation in the world
37 that has not ratified the treaty; and

38 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama and Secretary of State
39 Hillary Clinton should be strongly urged to place the treaty in the

1 highest category of priority to accelerate its passage through the
2 Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and

3 WHEREAS, The Legislature should exhort the Senate Foreign
4 Relations Committee once again to pass the treaty favorably out
5 of committee as soon as possible; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
7 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
8 requests that the United States Congress ratify, and President
9 Obama sign, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination
10 of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California
12 respectfully requests the Congress and the President to enact
13 appropriate legislation that would address the concerns set forth
14 in this measure; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
16 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
17 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority
18 Leader of the Senate, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,
19 the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and to each Senator and
20 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
21 States.